

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01 IO-14

/136 W

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O R 281305Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9317

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1370

NEA FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: THE INDIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION: CONCLUSIONS AND CAVEATS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 0657 (NOTAL) (B) NEW DELHI 1059 (NOTAL)

(C) NEW DELHI 1319 (NOTAL) (D) NEW DELHI 1311 (NOTAL)

1. OUR NET ASSESSMENT CONTINUES TO BE THAT THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN INDIA IS BAD AND IS PROBABLY GETTING WORSE. WE REALIZE THE EMBASSY AND RF WERE SAYING PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME. BUT THAT WAS AFTER A BAD HARVEST AND WE HAVE JUST GONE THROUGH AN EXCELLENT MONSOON WITH A GOOD FALL HARVEST AND AN ANTICIPATED GOOD WINTER ONE. THINGS JUST SHOULDN'T LOOK AS DIFFICULT AS THEY DO. POLITICAL FACTORS STILL SEEM TO INHIBIT THE GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING STEPS WHICH  
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MIGHT HELP STOP THE DECAY. WE FRANKLY DON'T KNOW WHETHER GROWING

AWARENESS OF THE SORRY STATE OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS WILL GRADUALLY  
CREATE A NATIONAL MOOD IN WHICH SOME CHANGES CAN BE MADE.  
CERTAINLY THIS IS NOT TRUE TODAY. HOW LONG THE DOWNHILL TREND  
CAN CONTINUE WITHOUT SOME MAJOR CHANGE IN REGIME OR IN THE  
CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS PARTY NO ONE SEEMS  
TO KNOW. NOR DO WE.

2. WE KEEP REMINDING OURSELVES THAT INDIAN RURAL SOCIETY,  
80 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY, REMAINS CONSERVATIVE AND SLOW TO  
CHANGE. THE EXISTING SYSTEM IS LIKE A SPONGE, APPEARING  
TO ABSORB ADVERSITY AND EVEN DISASTER ALMOST INDEFINITELY.  
MOREOVER, THE INDIAN EMOTIONAL CYCLE GOES UP AS WELL AS DOWN  
RAPIDLY. IF THEY CAN SOMEHOW WORK OUT THEIR FOOD DISTRIBUTION  
PROBLEMS, SPIRITS MAY RISE FOR A TIME. BUT THE OVERALL DIRECTION  
OF THE CURVE STILL POINTS DOWNWARD.

3. WE TELL YOU THIS IN PART TO UNDERLINE OUR AWARENESS OF THE  
UNRELIEVEDLY DARK TONE OF OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REPORTING  
OVER THE LAST SIX WEEKS. OUR VIEW REFLECTS THE GENERAL FLAVOR  
OF REPORTING FROM THE CONGENS (ALTHOUGH THINGS DO NOT SEEM  
QUITE SO BAD IN THE SOUTH RIGHT NOW) AS WELL AS THE VIRTUALLY  
UNRELIEVED GRIMNESS OF OUR INDIAN INFORMANTS--POLITICAL, LABOR,  
INTELLECTUAL, NEWSPAPERMEN, BUSINESSMEN, OFFICIALS. SOME OF  
OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES--THE BRITISH AND GERMANS, FOR EXAMPLE--  
AGREE WITH OUR ANALYSIS AND SAY THEY ARE GETTING THE SAME DATA  
INPUT BUT FEEL THE INDIANS WILL STILL MUDDLE THROUGH SOMEHOW  
ALTHOUGH THINGS STILL RUN DOWNHILL. OUR REPORTING MAY BE REFLECTING  
A SOMEWHAT MORE APOCALYPTIC VISION, BUT WE DO NOT THINK WE  
ARE ALL THAT MUCH AT ODDS WITH SUCH A VIEWPOINT. MANY INDIANS  
SEE VIOLENCE AND DISORDER BECOMING INCREASINGLY ENDEMICHRND  
ENVISAGE--OVER AN EXTENDED TIME PERIOD--SOME REAL AND FUNDAMENTAL  
POLITICAL REORDERING IN THE COUNTRY. MAYBE SO. WE'LL WATCH  
AND LET YOU KNOW.

4. AS A FIRST STEP, WE ARE SENDING EMBASSY AND CONGEN OFFICERS  
OFF ON TRIPS TO ABOUT TEN STATES (NONE OF THOSE CURRENTLY IN  
TURMOIL) IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS. WE HOPE WE WILL AVE  
A BETTER FEEL AFTER THE REPORTS ARE IN FROM THESE. WE WILL  
CONTINUE TO GIVE YOU REGULAR SPOT REPORTS ON INCIDENTS AND DISTUR-  
BANCES. WE TRUST YOU WILL READ THESE AS JUST THAT--DISCRETE  
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BITS OF DATA WHICH WE WILL TRY TO PUT INTO CONTEXT AND MAKE  
SENSE OUT OF ON A NATIONAL SCALE AS WE FIND OURSELVES ABLE TO DO  
SO.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974NEWDE01370  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740112/aaaaaknt.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) NEW DELHI 0657 (NOTAL) (B) NEW D, ELHI 1059 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE INDIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION: CONCLUSIONS AND CAVEATS  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005